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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Satoko Segawa

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21171

7590

04/20/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

SUITE 700

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EXAMINER

HOLZEN, STEPHEN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/956,934	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SEGAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Stephen A. Holzen	<b>Art Unit</b> 3644	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/30/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-10 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6, 8, 10 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 7, 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's amendments and arguments filed 1/30/2006, with respect to claims 2, 7 and 9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 2, 3, 7 and 9 has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Kirkevold et al (6,263,322) in view of Kuo (2002/0065734) and further in view of Willis et al (5,515,269).

Kirkevold et al discloses a repair order system that operates over a network having a component information database (#32) and owner information database storing the identities of vendors that own replacement parts (Col. 6, lines 45-65), receiving repair requests (from the auto owners coming in for diagnostic and repairs), a repair component (brakes, shocks, engine), a component providing candidate selecting part (management database), a purchase component notifying part (see Col. 6, lines 50-61), a selling component information receiving part (Col. 6, lines 50-61), and a desired selling prices (Col. 6, line 50), a component provider selecting part capable of selecting a component provider from the selected component providing candidate

based on the selling component information (Col. 6, lines 58-60), inherent in this reference that a repair fee input part presents the fee's to the requestor (see Flow chart of Figure 3).

Kirkevold et al does not disclose the step wherein the repair requester inputs a "requested fee" and chooses a supplier of "requested parts" based on the "requested fee".

However it is well known to allow a buyer to request any price and allow the seller to either match or dismiss said price (purchase agents are known means for searching and obtaining a desired price see US 2002/0065734 to Kuo; ¶0005 line 6 for instance). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow a buyer to prevent price discrimination.

Neither Kirkevold et al or Kuo teach the step of receiving remaining warranty period information with the component information.

Willis et al teaches that it is know for a user to input part numbers to identify products and creating a bill of materials to document the products desired for purchase with the price/cost of the "basic attributes", "option attributes" and "dependant attributes" (see 3:24-27 & 4:17-31). In step 132, the attributes and attribute values of a product are checked against the pricing/costing file 54 to determine prices and costs for material, labor, overhead and warranty. The pricing/costing file 54 contains prices (and costs, if desired) for attributes within specific values, value ranges and attribute combinations. (See Col. 10, lines 7-20). It is the examiner's position that Willis et al is determining the "value" of warranties on the products and using this value to determine to price of the desire product.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Willis et al to determine to overall value of a product for the purpose of comparison-shopping.

4. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkevold et al (6,263,322) in view of Kuo (2002/0065734) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Scheidt et al (5,654,902) and further in view of Willis et al (5,515,269).

Kirkevold et al discloses a repair order system that operates over a network having a component information database (#32) and owner information database storing the identities of vendors that own replacement parts (Col. 6, lines 45-65), receiving repair requests (from the auto owners coming in for diagnostic and repairs), a repair component (brakes, shocks, engine), a component providing candidate selecting part (management database), a purchase component notifying part (see Col. 6, lines 50-61), a selling component information receiving part (Col. 6, lines 50-61), and a desired selling prices (Col. 6, line 50), a component provider selecting part capable of selecting a component provider from the selected component providing candidate based on the selling component information (Col. 6, lines 58-60), inherent in this reference that a repair fee input part presents the fee's to the requestor (see Flow chart of Figure 3).

Kirkevold et al does not disclose is where the repair requester inputs a "requested fee" and chooses a supplier of "requested parts" based on the "requested fee". However it is well known to allow a buyer to request any price and allow the seller to either match or dismiss said

price (purchase agents are known means for searching and obtaining a desired price see US 2002/0065734 to Kuo; ¶0005 line 6 for instance).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow a buyer to prevent price discrimination.

Kirkevold in view of Kuo do not disclose an evaluation value calculating part.

Scheidt et al teaches that it is known to measure the life cycle of a component within a larger unit and further teaches that it is known to calculate the residual life of part, in order to reuse them or recycle them. (See Col. 1, lines 31-40, Col. 2, lines 14-19; Col. 3, lines 39-45; Col. 3, lines 65- Col. 4, line 7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to measure and calculate the product life cycles as taught by Scheidt into the invention of Kirkevold for the purpose of reducing the costs of purchasing replacement parts.

Kirkevold in view of Kuo and further in view of Scheidt do not specifically disclose receiving a remaining warranty period as information that determines the value of a product.

Willis et al teaches that it is know for a user to input part numbers to identify products and creating a bill of materials to document the products desired for purchase with the price/cost

of the “basic attributes”, “option attributes” and “dependant attributes” (see 3:24-27 & 4:17-31). In step 132, the attributes and attribute values of a product are checked against the pricing/costing file 54 to determine prices and costs for material, labor, overhead and warranty. The pricing/costing file 54 contains prices (and costs, if desired) for attributes within specific values, value ranges and attribute combinations. (See Col. 10, lines 7-20). It is the examiner’s position that Willis et al is determining the “value” of warranties on the products and using this value to determine to price of the desire product.


It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Willis et al to determine to overall value of a product for the purpose of comparison-shopping.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen A. Holzen whose telephone number is 571-272-6903. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 571-272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sah



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